



Thanksgiving is a time for relaxation and spending time with loved ones, but the holiday year can become dangerous in an instant. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has reported that more than 200 turkey-fryer [incidents](#) have occurred in the last two decades (1998–2018) and have resulted in almost \$10 million in property loss, and the National Safety Council reported 385 people died in car accidents during the 2018 [Thanksgiving weekend](#). Follow some basic tips to help keep the holiday fun and safe for everyone.

## COOKING SAFETY

Food is a major aspect of nearly every Thanksgiving celebration. Before the feast begins, keep the following cooking safety information in mind.

- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove to avoid burns from the appliance or spilled food.
- Remove items from the stovetop that could catch fire such as oven mitts, utensils, towels and food packages.
- Deep fryers should always be used outdoors at a safe distance from buildings, porches and any other flammable materials.
- Never leave the fryer unattended.
- If the meat is not completely thawed before being cooked in a fryer, a grease fire could occur.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby and never use water to douse a grease fire.
- If the fire is too large to address safely, evacuate the home and call 911.

## TRAVEL SAFETY

The holidays see an increase in travelers on their way to visit loved ones. With more people travelling extra precaution should be practiced.

- Keep track of weather and road conditions.
- If travelling by vehicle, have a mechanic check the vehicle before departing.
- If travelling with children, remind them to not speak to strangers and to stay with a responsible adult at all times.
- Have a fully-stocked emergency vehicle kit in the event of a car breakdown.
- Immediately report anything that appears suspicious to law enforcement.
- Thanksgiving Eve is the deadliest time for alcohol-related fatal accidents. Never drink alcohol and drive because it impairs physical and mental faculties.

## PET SAFETY

For many, pets are an important member of the household. Help keep the holiday enjoyable for them too.

- Pets should only have small, boneless portions of fully-cooked turkey.
- If guests visit, consider restricting room access to prevent stress-induced aggression.
- Remind guests to not feed pets any table scraps. Too much food can lead to stomach problems.
- To discourage begging, feed pets the same time the Thanksgiving meal is consumed.
- Remove trash and the turkey carcass immediately to prevent pets from eating bones or other harmful foods.